



"There are those who give with joy, and that joy is their reward." – Kahlil Gibran, <u>The Prophet</u>

Dear friends,

Now that we are in the throes of the season of expressing gratitude, I'd like to take a moment and express my gratitude again for this wonderful opportunity you have given me. This is the hardest job I've ever had and some days it is frustratingly exhausting, but this is also the most rewarding work of my life.

Recently, I had a whirlwind trip down to LA and back to participate in a panel about the Delta Conveyance Project at the Metropolitan Water District (MWD) Board of Directors. It was a brutally long travel day, and my words probably fell on mostly deaf ears, but I must persist and make every effort to win hearts and minds. You can read how I was quoted in the *LA Times* here.

As I was standing in line to board the plane to come home, I was casually chatting with one of the other passengers, who also happened to work in local government. She asked in an exasperated tone why I sought this job and if I was a glutton for criticism. After my usual "somebody has to do it" response, I reflected a little more deeply about what draws one into public service. Some are misguided, to be sure, but the purest intention is the arrogance of thinking you can make a difference. Do what you can, where you can, while you can.

Unfortunately, more often than not we are confronted by people who are unhappy, because they are the ones who take the time to come share their opinions, but every so often, you receive a little reminder that people are paying attention to the good effort as well. As I settled in to sort through the emails that had piled up from the day before, I found one that was from someone who had listened in on the MWD meeting and was grateful for the advocacy. She ended her note by saying my efforts weren't "unnoticed or unappreciated."

Little reminders like that – the silent majority who are watching and paying attention – fill the gas tank and fuel the drive to get up and do it again the next day. I was reminded that this synergy exists both ways. After sending an email out of the blue to two constituents, with an update on a persistent problem that has no easy solution, and even though the news did not include a definitive solution or even a clear path forward, both recipients expressed that just knowing someone was still paying attention to it was heartening to them.

Did you know they did a study about endorphin increases from an act of kindness? The recipient experiences a lift because something nice was done to them, which stands to reason. The person performing the kindness experiences a lift, again, reasonable, because they feel good about doing something good. Here's the wild part: everyone who witnesses it also has their spirits lifted! This is biologically hard-wired in us going back to when our survival depended upon working together.

So, I hope we can all express a little kindness this season – you never know whose spirits it may lift.

As always, please share this newsletter with a friend or neighbor and encourage them to <u>subscribe</u> for future newsletters or check out my Facebook page <u>here</u>.



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### In the December Issue:

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## **Winter Storm Preparedness**

As we move into another winter season, it's hard to forget the devastating storms that swept through Sacramento County in January 2023.

The rains came relentlessly, pushing the Cosumnes River to an all-time high with the floodwaters even forcing Highway 99 to shut down. The damage was unprecedented, affecting homes, roads and infrastructure. The experience served as a sharp reminder: winter storms can hit fast, and they can hit hard.

While we can't always predict when the next major storm will arrive, there are several important steps you can take to make sure you're ready for anything. Staying informed about flood risks and potential evacuations is key to safety. Sacramento Alert, the County's emergency notification system, will send real-time updates directly to your phone or email. These notifications can include flash flood warnings, road closures, shelter-in-place or evacuation orders and other important information in the event of an emergency. Sign up for Sacramento Alert at this link.

I also want to highlight how beneficial the County's 311 system can be when it comes to coordinating County response efforts.



During last year's storms, residents turned to the County's 311 system to report damage, fallen trees and flooding on County roads. The system became a crucial lifeline, helping to guide the County's Department of Transportation (DOT) as they worked tirelessly to clear debris and address flooding to maintain the safety of roads in the unincorporated areas of Sacramento County. Thanks to residents using 311 to report hazardous conditions, response times were faster, and the County

was able to focus resources where they mattered most.

Numerous County departments use 311 reports to process service requests, ensuring that resources are directed where they are most needed. If you come across damage, whether it be flooding, fallen trees, road hazards or more, please do not hesitate to report it to 311. Your report helps the County respond more efficiently, keeping our roads safe for everyone. To report a problem, contact 311 by phone, email, mobile application or online.

While 2023 reminded us of the flood risks we face in Sacramento County, it also highlighted the importance of investing in long-term solutions to protect our communities. One such effort is the Cosumnes Multi-Benefit Project, of which I am proud to be one of the leaders. The project aims to reduce flood risk along the Cosumnes River while also enhancing the natural environment.



Recently, CBEC, an organization that specializes in eco engineering, was awarded a contract to model the Cosumnes River as part of this important initiative. The project's goal is not only to reduce the impact of future flood events, but also to enhance the habitat for

fish species like salmon and improve groundwater recharge through reestablishing the natural floodplain areas.

For the residents of Sacramento County, this project is more than just an investment in flood management, it's a step toward creating a more sustainable, thriving ecosystem that benefits us all. By improving floodplain connectivity and strengthening natural water cycles, we're helping to ensure that future generations will have the tools they need to face whatever storms come their way. While these large-scale projects take time, they are critical in reducing future flood risks and being better equipped to face any storms ahead.

I was so pleased to learn this week that the Cosumnes River Watershed authorization was included in the final Water Resources Development Act of 2024 and agreed to by the U.S. House and Senate. This is a large step in the right direction in our efforts to ensure investments for our region in the next four-year federal funding commitments.

As we prepare for another storm season, remember that your safety depends on both immediate action and long-term resilience. Stay informed by signing up for <u>Sacramento Alert</u>, report hazards through the <u>311 system</u> and make sure your <u>emergency kit</u> is ready. The challenges we face during winter storms can be daunting, but by working together and preparing in advance, we can weather these storms together.

Stay safe, stay prepared, and let's make this winter a season of readiness for all of Sacramento County.

# **Shop Local in Your Community**

In an increasingly globalized world, the lure of big-box retailers and online shopping can be tempting. However, by choosing to patronize locally owned brick and mortar businesses, you can help ensure our local communities continue to thrive and be vibrant.



When you shop local, a larger portion of your spending dollar stays within our communities. This leads to more jobs, support for nearby suppliers and even an increase in donations to regional causes; a win-win for us all. According to a national study of shopping local statistics, for every \$100 spent at a local store, about \$68 stays in the community, compared to just \$43 for the larger retailers. This can be a rolling

snowball, creating more jobs, generating increased revenue and ultimately, boosts in our local economy.

One of the greatest benefits of shopping local is the experience you'll enjoy in meeting local business owners who specialize in local products. In my opinion, there's no better example of this than visiting some of our local wineries and breweries. From Vannatta Winery on Grantline Road to Grand Island Vineyards in the Delta, and the many, many others in between, these owners' deep knowledge of their craft products is priceless and often comes with tailored advice to meet your unique needs. For a list of local wineries and breweries to experience craft beverages in Elk Grove, Rancho Cordova, and the Delta region, please visit Explore Elk Grove, the Rancho Cordova Barrel District or Sac Wine and Ale.

Whether you're visiting the historic shopping districts of Galt or Elk Grove, visiting one of the many local farmers markets such as the Laguna-Elk Grove Farmers Market or the Sunrise Station Farmers Market (which are open yearround and offer locally grown, fresh produce), dining out at a neighborhood eatery, meeting friends for a coffee at the corner café or browsing through a small bookstore or other specialty



store, local artisans and business owners excel at making your experience unique and engaging you more deeply in the community. Shopping local also has a positive impact on our environment. Local businesses typically source their products from nearby suppliers, reducing the amount of packaging and the overall carbon footprint associated with long-distancing shipping.

One of the best resources you can find to help you connect with neighborhood businesses and get information about community events is your local chamber of commerce. Their staff and volunteers, who are dedicated to the prosperity of the region, aim to boost the local economy by providing information and services to the community. I encourage you to check out the different chamber offices throughout the County, such as Rancho Cordova, Elk Grove, Galt and Isleton.

Maybe you'll find new and award-winning restaurants like <u>Slow & Low Smokehouse</u> in Elk Grove, <u>Steamboat Landing</u> in Courtland, <u>The Mix Up Mediterranean Table</u> in Galt or <u>The McBoodery</u> in Isleton or a cool spot where you can support local artists at upcoming holiday bazaars and craft fairs such as:

- Winter Art Fest, December 6-8, Noon 5 pm, The MACC, Rancho Cordova
- Wilton Winter Festival, December 7, 8 am 2 pm, Wilton Community Center
- Holiday Gift Boutique, December 7, 4 pm 7 pm, Elk Grove Fine Arts Center
- Hood Holiday Market, December 8, 10 am 2 pm, Hood Firehouse
- Galt Christmas Bazaar, December 8, Noon 2 pm, St Luke's Episcopal Church

In this world where convenience often outshines all other considerations, remember shopping locally is an easy yet impactful way to support our small businesses, help strengthen our local economy, foster community connections and contribute to a more sustainable future. While it may seem like a small gesture, choosing to go local helps ensure our communities remain vibrant.

**Out & About in District 5** 







Celebrating the 125th Anniversary of the Buddhist Church of Sacramento. Top photo: me, Board Member Sharon Ito Warren and Assemblymember Stephanie Nguyen. Bottom left photo: Standing (from left to right): my wife Lisa, me, Kenny Viec, Assemblymember Stephanie Nguyen and President of the Buddhist Church of Sacramento Karen Adachi. Sitting (from left to right): Mary McCune, Board Member Tristan Brown, and Keith Adachi. Bottom right photo: Presenting a Proclamation to Board President Karen Adachi and President-Elect Bobby Tanaka.





I was proud to walk with the Elk Grove American Legion Post 233 in the Elk Grove Veterans Day parade. Top right photo: Standing with Grand Marshal Denise Hallock. Bottom left photo: Doc Loudon, Mike Retzlaff and me.







Attending the Rancho Cordova State of the City address. Top photo: David Reid of the Folsom Cordova School Board, Senator Roger Niello, me, Vice Mayor Siri Pulipati, Mayor David Sander and Sacramento County DA Thien Ho. Bottom left photo: me, Senator Niello and Sgt. Mike McCoy. Bottom right photo: Asst. Chief Nick Goncalves, Lt. Mike Daniels, Police Chief Matt Tamayo and myself.



Honoring Raelynn & Jason Springer as the 2024 Elk Grove Citizen of the Year.





Celebrating the Grand Opening of the newest SF Supermarket in Rancho Cordova.

Standing with me includes Rancho Cordova Chamber of Commerce CEO Diann Rogers,
District Attorney Thien Ho, Supervisor Patrick Kennedy, Mai Nguyen, CEO of SF
Supermarket Hieu Tran and Assemblyman Josh Hoover's staff member Lane Gonick.

# **Upcoming Events**



ICE CREAM • TACOS • PIZZA QUESTIONS? CONTACT US: TAYLOR VLS 916-709-4653 GUILLERMO JR 916-270-5246 DECEMBER

WALNUTGROVEFD@GMAIL.COM











For more information contact the Special Event Division (209)366-7115.

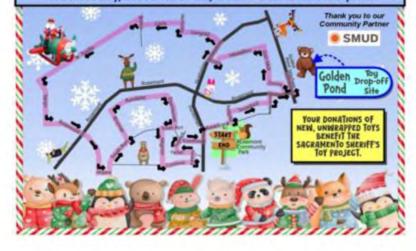








# Santa Parade & Toy Drive - North Rosemont Wednesday, December 11, 2024 - Starts at 6:00 p.m.







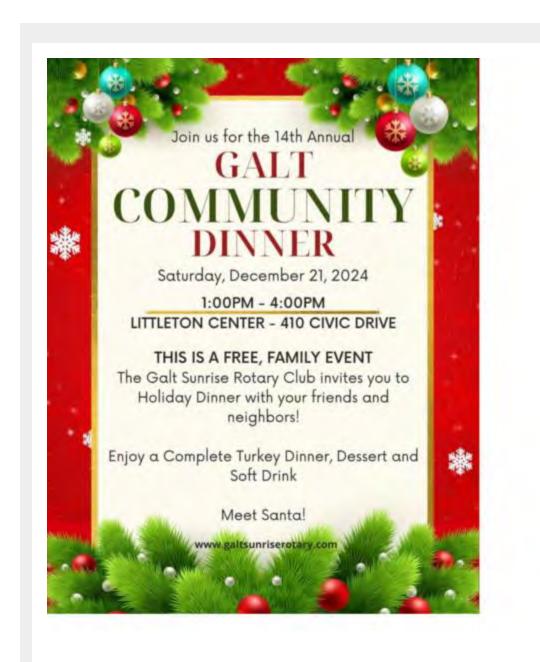








SUNDAY, December 15th, 2024 3:30PM to 7:30PM District 56 - 8230 Civic Center Drive Suite 100, Elk Grove, CA 95757



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